

Hello. My name is Robert W. Johnson. I have been in the ABI Waiver program for 15 years. I have come a long way since my accident. I am trying to make my dreams come true.

Doug Dowling is my ILST. He works for Lisa Martin's wonderful company Independent Living Solutions. He knows how to help me do what I want to do. He allows me to be myself. Working together with Doug, I have acted in a play at Yale, shown my paintings in an art gallery in Boston, and I am writing a children's book that I am going to publish on Amazon Kindle. Last week I got a positive reaction from an art gallery in New York that might want to show my paintings. This amazes me. I am very lucky.

Doug is there for me, 3 days a week, helping me work hard and plan my future. Every day when Doug shows up I have a list of questions that we talk about. We come up with the answers together. It is very important to me. A good ILST is a very special person.

Without the benefit of an experienced ILST none of this would be happening.

So when you tell me that you are going to take away my ILST, I take it personally. This is my life we are talking about here. And I have a right to reach for my dreams.

I feel so sad. Every person should have the opportunity I have had.

Thank you.